(b) The prices of most of the bulk drugs and formulations manufactured by public sector companies are regulated under the Drugs Price Control Order, 1979.

Capacity utilisation in Public Sector Fertilizer/Chemical Plants

616. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of capacity utilisation in the fertilizer|chemical plants a Madras, Tuticorin and Mangalore in the year 1984-85; and

(b) whether gas turbines and diesel generators have been installed at these plants for full capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The capacity utilisation in the year 1984-85 in respect of Madras, Tuticorin and Mangalore Fertilizer Plants of Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) and Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (MCFL) respectively was as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Plant	% capacity utilisation	
		Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P)
1	Madras	86.0	100.4
2	Tuticorin	104.9	112.5
3	Mangalore	85.9	

(b) The Tuticorin and Madras Plants already have some captive power plants to meet part of their power requirements. The Tuticorin plant is in the process of setting up further factiities to meet their balance power requirement. The Mangalore plants is also setting up captive power plants to meet the entire power requirement of the existing ammonia and urea plants.

Canalised drug items for Small Scale Units

617. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small-scale units that got more canalised drug items during the year 1984-85 than in 1983-84; and

(b) whether there was a proportionate increase in the production of drugs in 1984-85 by such units as compared to that in the year 1983-84?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) Information to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

High Price of Anti-TB drugs

618. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ethambutol based formulation are used by T.B. partients;

(b) whether it is a fact that prices of medicines based on this drug are very high in spite of the fact that Government have given concessions on customs duty on raw materials and excise duty on medicines;

(c) if so, what is the price fixed for Ethambutol and what price of the drug was taken into account while fixing the prices of Themibutol; Mycobutol, Lisabutol Iditol, Etinol; Ethibi; Coxylol, Csmbutol Butol and Albutol Tablets of different packs and different strenghts;

(d) what is the mark-up allowed on the above tablets and what mark up is allowed on their anti-TB medicines;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Ethambutol is available at cheaper price than the fixed price; and

(f) if so, whether the purchase bills were verified before fixing the tablet prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (f) The price of Ethambutol bulk drug fixed by the Government under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 with effect from 19-7-1984 is Rs. 681/- per kg. In fixing this price the prevalent customs duty on raw materials was also taken into consideration. The leader prices of Ethambutol formulations sold by different manufacturers under different brand names are based on the notified price of the bulk drugs. As there is no excise duty on the formulations of Ethambutol, the benefit of lower prices on this account is available to the consumers.

(d) Leader packs based on Ethambutol have been allowed a mark up of 100% on the ex-factory cost whereas non-conforming packs have been allowed a mark-up of 60%. Anti-TB formulations specified in Category II of the order are allowed a mark-up of 55% on the ex-factory cost.

(e) The price fixed by the Government for Ethambutol is the maximum sale price and manufacturers are free to sell the drug at any price not exceeding the maximum sale price.

Proposal of NDPDC for price control of priority list drugs

619. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to news item captioned 'An Irrational Priority List' which appeared in the "Time of India" of the 22nd June, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that NDPDC proposed price control only on the priority-list-drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of medicines based on drugs which have been omitted are having an annual turn over between five crores to twenty crores;

(d) if so, what are the names of these drugs;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there are number of medicines, based on drugs which have been included in the list, are having turn over of less than Rupees Fifty lacs per annum;

(f) if so, what are the names of these drugs; and

(g) how such priority list will benefit the consumer and what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consensus of the National Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Development Council (NDPDC) was that only bulk drugs included in the priority list and related formulations should be price controlled.

(c) to (g) The medicines required by the large majority of people for the most common diseases known including those required by the National Health Programmes are included in the priority list. The list was drawn up by the medical experts who were members of the Steering Committee of the NDPDC. About 4,000 formulations based on 500 bulk drugs are marketed in thousands of packs. The sales turnever of individual packs/formulations is not monitored. Government would take a decision on the modifications/changes required in the drug policy keeping in view all relevant view points and factors.